

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

35p

3-9 March 1983 Vol 2 No 9

## This Week

### Hobbit competition

Who will be first to complete *The Hobbit*? If you have stumbled through Elvan Halls, met Gollum and battled with bloodthirsty trolls, you should enter our new competition on page 31.

### Spectrum software

Tony Bridge looks at a large selection of the latest Spectrum software. See page 12.

### Inside Atari

David Kelly talks to Graham Daubney of Atari on page 11.

### BBC and Education

Calvin Woodings explains the intricacies of Students 'T' significance test. See page 35.

**★ STAR**  
Romeo and Juliet on 16K ZX81 by David Hanson. See page 8.  
**GAME ★**

## News Desk

# Spectrum rival — the TX8000

THE TEXET TX8000 is a new computer offering similar capabilities to the Sinclair Spectrum machine.

With 8K Ram the 6502 machine runs Microsoft Basic and has eight colours and a *Beep* command. Although it has a moving key rubber keyboard, it will cost only £98.

It has 16 predefined graphics characters and a single-keyword entry facility. Display is: text, 32 x 16 charac-

ters; text/graphics, 64 x 32 pixels; and high-resolution, 128 x 64 pixels. A cassette interface, memory expansion bus, peripheral port and tv output are provided. A memory expansion pack, giving 64K, will cost £52.

The machine, manufactured in Hong Kong by Video Technology, will be distributed in the UK by Cheadle Hulme based Texet, beginning in April.



## New micronet database

MICRONET 800, the Prestel-based telephone software service, has been officially launched.

As a special offer the first 10,000 subscribers will be able to connect up to the database for only £55. A quarterly subscription will also be charged.

Micronet will offer free games and educational programs, computer news and ac-

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## Spectrum power packs faulty

SINCLAIR is recalling some of its Spectrum power packs as they are faulty and could be dangerous.

Anyone who has bought a Spectrum since January 1, 1983, should check their power pack immediately. If the lead between the power pack and the Spectrum is black with a white stripe, the power pack should be returned to Sinclair (for further details see *Letters*, page 7).

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